



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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June 28, 2006

The Honorable Ken Bennett
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Senate Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1153: postsecondary institutions; religious organizations; equality

Dear President Bennett:

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1153, which would have allowed recognized student organizations at public postsecondary institutions to deny membership to students on the grounds of religious, political and other beliefs.

Students at public postsecondary institutions should not be prohibited from participating in the student organizations of their choice simply based on their religious or political beliefs. A law that would permit such discrimination could lead to a host of adverse consequences. For example, if this bill became law, there would be nothing to prohibit the school football team or chess club from denying participation by Jews, Christians, Muslims or members of other religions. Such a result is not in the best interests of students or the colleges and universities they attend.

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1153.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Napolitano".
Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Linda Gray